

WE CLAIM:

1. A non-third-party, purchaser/vendor exclusive commercial transaction method, wherein traditional third-party participation is absent and fully replaced by specific patterns of commercial relationships which have been pre-developed and pre-qualified between purchaser/vendor users of the method, and which method is designed for practice in conjunction with a computer-based, broad-area, information-exchange network, said method comprising

establishing a participating group of vendors of products and/or services, qualifying vendors in the group, and connecting this group to such a network,

establishing a participating group of purchasers of such products and/or services and qualifying these purchasers,

creating for each purchaser, and based upon the above-recited qualifying activities, a personal package of pre-agreed upon, developed and qualified commercial relationships in the forms of data specially associating that purchaser with selected ones of such vendors, and

furnishing each purchaser with a personal network-access key which contains information fully allowing that purchaser, through connection with the network, to utilize the mentioned package of relationships associated with that purchaser and the selected vendors.

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2. The method of claim 1 which is specifically designed for use in association with the field of commercial trucking activities.

5 3. The method of claims 1 or 2 which further comprises enabling participating vendors to revise their respective qualifications for participation.

4. The method of claims 1 or 2 which further comprises enabling participating purchasers to revise their respective qualifications for participation.

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5. Establishing an open-ended group of network participants, including plural vendors and plural purchasers of various products and/or services,

pre-qualifying such participants for use of the network by creating, with respect to each purchaser and to a selected plurality of associated vendors with whom the purchaser may wish to engage in commercial transactions, a set of specific, agreed-upon commercialize-relationship protocols, which set may differ from a like set created for other purchasers and associated vendors,

connecting the vendors to the network,

enabling such a connection for the purchasers, and

furnishing each purchaser with a purchaser-specific, network-access, portable appliance key which allows that purchaser selectively to connect and disconnect from the network, and which contains a network-communicable database which allows utilization by a connected purchaser of the specific set of protocols defined for and associated with that purchaser and with the selected associated vendors,

wherein a connection made by a purchaser to the network using the appliance key enables a direct commercial, transactional link between the purchaser and each vendor associated with the protocol set created for that purchaser, each of which links allows for a direct purchaser/vendor commercial transaction over the network without there occurring any associated, participating, branching outside of the link to include any third-party transaction activity.

6. The method of claim 5, which is specifically designed for use in association

with the field of commercial trucking activities.

FOR EVIDENCE

7. A non-third-party, purchaser/vendor specific, commercial transaction system, wherein third-party participation is absent, and fully replaced by specific patterns of commercial relationships which have been pre-developed and pre-qualified between users of the system, and which system is designed for practice in conjunction with a computer-based, broad-area, information-exchange network, said system comprising

a computer-accessible database relating to participating vendors of products and/or services appropriately connected to such a network,

a computer-accessible database relating to participating purchasers of such products and/or services and appropriately connectable to such a network, and

a key access tool providable to purchasers and connectable to such a network for identifying a particular purchaser to the network, and for accessing, within the network, pre-agreed upon, commercial-transaction protocols established for each purchaser and selected vendors,

connection by a purchaser through the associated key access tool to the network enabling a direct commercial, transactional link between that purchaser and each vendor associated with the specific purchaser through the pre-agreed-upon protocols, whereby a direct purchaser/vendor commercial transaction over the network takes place without there occurring any associated, participating, branching outside to include any third-party transaction activity.

8. A computer and network-based commercial transaction method employed between participating vendors and purchasers of various goods and/or services, wherein there has been established, between such vendors and purchasers, specific patterns of pre-agreed upon commercial transactional relationships, and the participating purchasers are engaged in work spans of time characterized by plural, successive requests for such goods and/or services, said method comprising

furnishing a vendor-/purchaser-accessible communication network poised to implement such relationship patterns,

enabling commercial transactional connections over the network between participating vendors and purchasers, and

as an outcome of said enabling, and over a defined span of time, promoting the realization of plural successive transactions between a participating vendor and a participating purchaser, which transactions take place, one after another, without the expenditure of time during that span to conduct per-transaction, lateral transaction approvals and/or authorizations.